

THREE COMMITTEES AFTER BURLESON

Vie for Opportunity to Investigate Postmaster-General's Administration.

HE ANSWERS GALLOWAY

Ignores Boston and Newark Charges to Cite His Acts at Other Places.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.
WASHINGTON, Sept. 9.—As an indication of the strong demand in Congress for the investigation of Albert Sydney Burleson's administration of the Post Office Department to determine whether impeachment proceedings should be brought against him three House committees today were bidding keenly against one another for the right to conduct the inquiry.

Republican House leaders will meet later in the week to determine which committee shall have the honor—if it may be called that—and arrange other details of the investigation. While prominent members still refused to comment on the probability of impeachment proceedings there is no doubt that a far-reaching investigation into Mr. Burleson's handling of the postal service will be conducted, it was stated. But it is admitted that impeachment is being considered, depending on the results of the inquiry.

Lehbach Is Busy.
The three committees in keen rivalry for the investigation are Appropriations, Reform in the Civil Service and Expenditures in the Post Office Department.

The bill of Representative Steienson (Minn.) to take the Civil Service Commission out of politics by having the Supreme Court, instead of the President, appoint the members of the commission, the Appropriations Committee, but Chairman Lehbach (N. J.) of the Committee on Reform in the Civil Service is planning to ask that it be referred to his committee.

Mr. Lehbach also is expected to fire the opening gun in the inquiry Thursday by reporting to the House from his committee a resolution asking the Postmaster-General to submit to the House a complete statement of all postmaster appointments and vacancies during his term of office.

This will be used as a basis for substantiating the charges that Mr. Burleson has debauched the Civil Service Commission by refusing to accept its recommendations for the offices and appointing men instead for political advantage. Later it is expected the commission will be called on to submit the results of its investigation of the qualifications of postmasters.

While the first work of the investigation will be to determine to what extent the Post Office Department has violated the law by refusing to appoint candidates on their merit, since this probably would be the basis of impeachment proceedings, it was emphasized that the inquiry will include the many complaints of the tendency toward disintegration in the postal service during Mr. Burleson's management.

The House Committee on Expenditures in the Post Office Department, of which Representative Zihlman (Md.) is chairman, is planning an investigation of these complaints and has started preliminary hearings. On the ground that his committee is already at work, Mr. Zihlman will bid for the post office investigation.

Mr. Burleson made to-night his first reply to the charges of Charles M. Galloway, who, when he resigned from the Civil Service Commission last Saturday, charged that the Postmaster-General had made a "sham" of the merit system of the commission. The Postmaster-General did not reply to the assertions of Mr. Galloway that he had been a candidate for the Boston and Newark post offices had been turned down for political applicants.

Cites Cases Elsewhere.
Instead he sought to justify cases at Salinas, Cal., where he refused to remove a Postmaster after he had been fined for soliciting campaign funds while he was in office, and at Lockhart, Tex., where a relative of Mr. Burleson got the office instead of merit candidates suggested by the Civil Service Commission. The statement reads:

"Of course the Postmaster-General will not engage in controversy with the discharged Civil Service Commissioner, who, as is well known, unfortunately became disqualified to discharge the responsible duties of his office because of an apparently uncontrollable infirmity.

"At no time has the Postmaster-General addressed a communication to the Civil Service Commission with a view of improperly controlling a post office appointment and the Postmaster-General has at no time spoken to the members of the commission with a purpose to control their action in filling any post office vacancy.

"In the matter of the Lockhart, Tex., case, the temporary appointment of the relative of the Postmaster-General as acting Postmaster was not made by him, but by the Survey General in accordance with his wishes, which company had the right under the law to temporarily fill the vacancy. After the examination had been held and an eligible list certified to the Department the Postmaster-General, notwithstanding the fact that the papers had been returned to the Civil Service Commission for review, directed the Survey General to appoint the first eligible, which was done, and he now holds the office. This action was taken long before the papers were reviewed by the commission.

"In the matter of the Salinas, Cal., case, the Postmaster had proved an efficient officer. His reputation in his community was without blemish. After the campaign of 1916 he was charged with a violation of the civil service law in the matter of soliciting campaign funds. He was indicted and fined by

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the court. It was thought that the

filling of the indictment and the penalty visited upon him by the court was sufficient punishment for the offense he had committed. The Postmaster-General refused to add to this punishment by removal of the postmaster from office. For this action he has no apology to make and has followed the policy laid down by his predecessors under former administrations in such cases, as the records of the department show.

Cites Ex-Commissioner.

"The charge that an attempt has been made to debauch the civil service in the appointment of postmasters, which is under the direction of the First Assistant Postmaster-General, who has been in the postal service for a quarter of a century and is recognized by all who know him as the very embodiment of honesty, uprightness and efficiency, is completely met by the following statement made by the former chairman of the Civil Service Commission who served under the administration of Messrs. Roosevelt and Taft, which statement was made in writing when these serious charges were first anonymously given to the press.

"Mr. McIlhenny, speaking of the very charges then said after characterizing them as 'unfair and unfair and untrue':

"There has been no effort on the part of the Post Office Department or of myself (the Postmaster-General) to get rid of the civil service law in its principle or its rules."

"The truth is, there is more complaint from Democratic sources as to the action taken under the Executive order issued by Mr. Burleson, and it is admitted by those familiar with the cases handled that the Department has adhered strictly to the Executive order as issued."

Galloway Denounces Insinuations.
The Postmaster-General's insinuations against the character of Mr. Galloway drew a sharp, terse reply from the latter to-night. Mr. Galloway's statement reads:

"Mr. Burleson does what every gutter-mouth politician does who has no truthful defense to charges made against him. He avoids the issue and resorts to mud-slinging."

"I am perfectly willing to let those who know the private character of Mr. Burleson and myself decide which of us is superior to the other in decent, honest, worthy manhood."

"I reaffirm every statement I made in the press of September 7 concerning Mr. Burleson."

Moreover, Mr. Burleson attempts to hide behind his first assistant, Mr. Koons, and to place the blame upon him. And with a refreshing sense of humor he produces as proof of the purity of his official acts a letter from former Commissioner McIlhenny!"

RAIDERS OF STILL ATTACKED.

Foreigners in Lindenau, N. J., Fight Officers Vainly.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

New BRUNSWICK, N. J., Sept. 9.—Following the discovery of an alleged illicit still in the home of Gustave Meyers at Lindenau to-day, agents of the United States Internal Revenue office here and of the county Prosecutors office who attacked by residents of the place and a pitched battle ensued. No arrests were made, but a quantity of whiskey and "mash" was confiscated.

Meyers, the owner of the still, had been arrested yesterday for beating his wife. Information was received as to the still and the officers went there in his absence. The still was used by practically all the foreigners in the town, however, and they rose against the officers.

"In the matter of the Salinas, Cal., case, the Postmaster had proved an efficient officer. His reputation in his community was without blemish. After the campaign of 1916 he was charged with a violation of the civil service law in the matter of soliciting campaign funds. He was indicted and fined by

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FISHER SEES U-BOAT AS FUTURE FIGHTER

British Naval Authority Says Aëros Will Annihilate Surface Craft.

BARES OLD SEA SECRETS

Had Plan to Bottle German Fleet and Land Soldiers Near Berlin.

This is the third of a series of articles by former First Sea Lord of the British Admiralty, popularly known in England as "Hell Fire Jack" Fisher.

By BARON FISHER of Kilverstone

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN from the Admiralty, Sept. 9, 1919.

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London, Sept. 9.—"Don't prescribe until you are called in."

These words were spoken to me by that eminent physician and dear friend of mine, Sir Bertrand Dawson, when one day I explained to him that my rule in life in case of big affairs was never to have a confidant. He had been inquiring of me whether under certain conditions I would explain what I would propose to do at a particular crisis in war.

I said to him that I had my plan in minute detail and was absolutely sure of its unqualified success. For I had three strings to my bow instead of the proverbial two, but I would not divulge my plan, and I never did to a living soul, as no plan, however perfect, can ever be completed successfully unless the man who formed it carries it out. If some body else carries it out and it fails he gets no discredit.

The man who made the plan is the one who has the hope around his neck. I said much more to him of current events and the personalities I would have to deal with, which is totally unfit for publication. Sawdust would run out of many reputations were I to do so, and it is not my purpose now to agitate anybody.

I included my remarks to him with an extract from, I believe, a most celebrated speech made by Edmund Burke in the House of Commons. He said: "I have no faith in any scheme of war in which the execution is divorced from the plan."

Sir Bertrand Dawson chimed in: "I have something better. Don't prescribe until you are called in."

Yes, that is better because everybody gets sick, but everybody does not go to the doctor. I shall never forget taking nine grains of calomel. I am sure he would never have given it to me had he been called in. "It was enough to kill a horse. So it was in stormy years, from 1902 to 1910, that Admiral Sir Robert Arbuthnot, who met a glorious but not justifiable death at the battle of Jutland, left a sealed letter to be given to me by his wife in case he was killed. It is a lovely letter. He was my flag captain when I was Admiral at Portsmouth."

Describes Interview.
The time is May, 1903. He describes in this letter a remarkably unpleasant interview he had with me and apparently I told him to obey orders and not argue. He had the audacity to ask my reasons. I told him that bigger men than he had asked me my reasons. The word camouflage had not then been invented, but I told him I always gave superior an evasive answer, but I was in position to say to him "You be damned."

But he adds in his letter that I was kind enough to give him a prophecy, and it was fulfilled on July 19, 1914, when Admiral Sir Robert Arbuthnot, taking a mutual friend round Scapa Flow, the fleet being then at Spithead, in his Admiral's barge, said to him: "This modern navy is Lord Fisher. Everything here is of his origin."

Admiral Mahan, years after and not so very long before the war, wrote an article in the Scientific American that said the world had suddenly discovered that 88 per cent. of the guns of the British navy were trained on Germany.

Does any one in his senses believe that a weakened people had they known the plan, would have permitted its execution?

scout; to train 88 per cent. of the guns of the British navy on Germany and make the North Sea, or as the German Emperor liked to call it, the German Ocean, into its regular cruising grounds? "Your battle ground should be your drill ground," said Nelson.

Each Admiral thought he was being humiliated by his ships being trained away from a time and bringing home some of them mutilated and ought to have been shot, but only shot at a poor devil like Byng, who had no friends. All the same, I am glad Byng was shot, otherwise we should not have had Voltaire's "Encyclopédie."

What I think is one of the fearful things of the last war is that we had no Admirals or Generals shot. We only promoted them. Least of all did the Germans suspect my 1903 project. They rubbed their heads with malignant glee and thought the British Admirals were mutinying, so that there was only a suspicion when Belt related his conversation with the German Emperor, who told Belt that notwithstanding the testations of peace and unity Sir John Fisher would cook up the German fleet it allowed and would land an army on the coast of Pomerania, eighty miles from Berlin. He was right, for so I would have, and I told King Edward so in 1908 when I was accused of it.

Declines to Give Plan.
Consequently when on this very morning, September 4, 1919, I am asked to give my plan for reducing navy estimates to the \$170,000,000 figure that we had in 1904 when I was First Sea Lord and the Scapa Flow fleet began to build, I answer in the immortal words of Burke: "I will not give my plan unless I have the execution of it."

What the public doesn't realize is that even half of the navy that is not obsolete is unequal to all the navies of the world put together in its efficiency. Born fools could but that notwithstanding, the world's most efficient ship in the world doesn't count if it is inefficiently manned and commanded. It is our sailors and officers who are the cream of the world, and it is absolutely true what Nelson said, that one British sailor was equal to any three others of any other nation.

I should cease all shipbuilding, well, he is the stupid ass that that he was born. I have believed and some believe have to be like the correction. They require faith. Our stupid people do not believe in the internal combustion engine or in oil. I have faith in both. Those two are not only going to revolutionize the sea, but they are going to revolutionize sea commerce, for the ample and convincing reasons which I shall set forth in my book.

I should at first build, not necessarily fighting vessels, but I should build tramps to carry oil with every improvement in internal combustion engines fitted in the ship's power plant. You cannot have an internal combustion engine all of a sudden, like Minerva out of the head of Jupiter. How the ancients saw that that was all ways puzzles me. It says in Lempriere's dictionary that she emerged from the head of Jupiter fully armed.

I would build like anything now, but they would be inexpensive vessels, more or less built to carry these experimental internal combustion engines, and the vessels would be used for war commodities.

About the year 1878 I gave a couplet to Sir Nathaniel Barnard, K. C. B.

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